

stagnated through the 1990s. And we refused to do the obvious and increase those standards.

Taking steps to reinvigorate the CAFE program is the best way to produce dramatic savings in oil consumption, those savings that we witnessed in the 1970s and 1980s. That is why I am an original cosponsor of S. 794, which would increase fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles to 40 miles per gallon by 2015 and for pickup trucks by 27.4 miles per gallon. This would save 1.8 million barrels of oil a day by 2015, and 3.1 million barrels a day by 2020. This is the Energy bill we need, not the one we are considering.

Indeed, this approach, a technological approach, is most suited to our greatest advantages. We are the Nation of technological innovation. We are the Nation that first ventured into space dramatically and went to the moon. I cannot believe that if we give them the simple mission of raising gas mileage standards, that our automobile industry cannot do so and do so promptly without losing jobs, without losing market share.

While we fail to take action to increase fuel economy standards and provide \$100,000 tax loopholes for SUVs, China, already a growing economic power, recognizes the need to reduce its oil demands from the Middle East. In contrast to this bill, China is preparing fuel efficiency rules that will be significantly more stringent than those in the United States. The Chinese standards call for new cars, vans, and sport utility vehicles to get as much as 2 miles a gallon of fuel more in 2005 than the average required in the United States and about 5 miles more in 2008.

Let me guarantee you, our automobile manufacturers will be trying desperately to sell in that market, and we will be producing cars that go into that market. Yet they will turn to us and say: It is impossible to do that here in the United States.

The Chinese are more sensitive to the global imbalance in supply and demand for petroleum products than we are. They are taking action—and we can't—because they recognize the economic implications and the national security implications.

The Energy bill before us could have reduced our dependence on foreign oil and strengthened national security by including a renewable portfolio standard for America's electricity industry. A strong renewable portfolio standard would diversify our fuel supply, clean our air, and better protect our consumers from electricity price shocks.

According to the Energy Information Agency, gradually requiring utilities to produce 20 percent of electricity from renewable resources such as solar and wind is both affordable and feasible. In addition, it would create jobs by spurring \$80 billion in new capital investment. Again, this is the Energy bill we need, not the one we are considering.

For over 30 years, through four different Presidencies, Americans have

been promised that our Government would end the national security threat caused by our dependence on foreign oil. But energy security means more than drilling in new places for oil and natural gas. It starts with using less energy far more efficiently. It means obtaining energy from sources that are less vulnerable to terrorism or world politics. Unfortunately, it appears that the American people will continue to wait for a meaningful energy policy that promotes national security and reduces our dependency on foreign oil.

We faced an important vote today. I believe we made the right vote. We have given ourselves more time to improve this bill, to develop legislation that will meet our economic, our environmental, and our national security needs, to serve the American people in a way which will make them more secure and more prosperous. I hope we use this intervening time not simply to return to this legislation but to vigorously reform legislation so that we can present the American people a bill that will serve their needs and not the needs of special interests.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. THOMAS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING TWO SOUTH DAKOTA SOLDIERS KILLED OVER THE WEEKEND IN IRAQ

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, yesterday was a national day of mourning in Italy. Tens of thousands of people lined a procession route and gathered at a basilica in Rome to pay their final respects to 19 Italian soldiers killed last week in a truck bombing in Nasiriyah, Iraq. The soldiers' deaths mark Italy's worst military loss since World War II.

The American people share Italy's sorrow over their enormous loss.

There is also a profound sense of sorrow today in South Dakota. Two of the 17 American soldiers killed last Saturday, when those 2 Army Black Hawk helicopters collided in the sky over the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, were from our State.

South Dakota lost as many soldiers in that instant as we had lost in the entire Iraq war so far.

Today, we mourn our lost sons: Army CWO Scott Saboe; and Army PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle.

We also mourn the 15 soldiers lost with them, the 405 other U.S. servicemembers who have given their lives, so far, in this war, and all of the sons and daughters of our allies who have been lost in this war.

CWO Scott Saboe was 33 years old, a career soldier with 14 years of military service.

He leaves behind his wife, Franceska, and their 6-year-old son, Justin, who live in Alabama.

His father, Arlo Saboe, is a decorated Vietnam war veteran who lost his wife and brother in the last 2 years. His sister, Amy remington, is stationed at Walter Reed Army Medical Center near Washington.

Willow Lake, where Scott Saboe grew up, is a small town. Only about 300 people live there. On Sunday, more than half of them stopped by Arlo Saboe's house to pay their condolences.

Before Iraq, Scott Saboe had flown helicopters over the demilitarized zone in Korea. As his father told a reporter for the Sioux Falls Argus Leader, "He was willing to go anywhere."

He reportedly was scheduled to return to the United States in 2 weeks for training.

Today, at Willow Lake High School, where he played center on the football team, the flag has been lowered to half-staff.

Bill Stobbs, a former teacher and football coach who now is the school's principal, told the Argus Leader:

He died doing what he loved, and he was a dedicated soldier. That's all there is to it.

Darin Michalski, a childhood friend, said:

Most of us can go through our who lives and don't really accomplish anything, and some of us only live to be 33, and we're heroes.

PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle was just 21.

He lived in Eagle Butte, on the Cheyenne River Sioux reservation, and was an enrolled member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe—one of about 90 members of the tribe deployed to Iraq.

He was a descendant of the legendary Lakota warrior leader, Crazy Horse. His Lakota name was Wanbleoheteka, Brave Eagle.

Like Scott Saboe, Sheldon Hawk Eagle grew up in a family that viewed military service as a citizen's duty. His grandfather, father and uncle all served.

Friends and family members describe him as a hard-working, quiet young man. One of his former teachers remembers his "nice smile."

His parents died when he was a young boy. He was raised by his aunt and uncle, Harvey and Fern Hawk Eagle.

His only surviving sibling, his sister, Frankie Allyn Hawk Eagle, lives in Grand Forks, ND. He enlisted in Grand Forks, in June 2002, to be close to her.

He was deployed to Iraq in March and reportedly had hoped to be home this coming February.

Emmanuel Red Bear, a spiritual leader who teaches Lakota language and culture at Eagle Butte High School, remembered Hawk Eagle to a reporter as an aggressive, but fair, football player who was a model of sportsmanship on and off the field.

Said Red Bear of Hawk Eagle:

He was a role model, in his quiet way. The younger kids looked up to him. . . . He really was a modern-day warrior.

Tribal Chairman Harold Frazier said simply:

He's our hero. He defended our country and protected our freedom.

News of Scott Saboe's and Sheldon Hawk Eagle's deaths reached their hometowns on Sunday. Many people first heard the news first at church services.

It had been some time since South Dakota had lost anyone in Iraq.

On May 9, CWO Hans Gookezen, of Lead, was killed when the Black Hawk helicopter he was copiloting got caught in a power line and went down in the Tigris River.

On June 18, PFC Michael Dool of Nemo, was killed while on guard duty at a propane distribution center in Baghdad.

The crash of the two Black Hawks last Saturday was the deadliest single incident since the United States invaded Iraq. The military is investigating whether enemy ground fire have caused the crash.

All 17 of the victims were from the Army's 101st Airborne Division—the famed “Screaming Eagles”—the same unit that parachuted into Normandy on D-Day.

Like people in every state perhaps, South Dakotans sometimes focus on our superficial differences: East River versus West River, Native American versus the sons and daughters of pioneers and immigrants. Today, we are one State, united in sadness over the deaths of our soldiers, and pride over the noble lives they lived.

I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

OBESITY

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise for a few moments to speak to a once silent, now highly visible epidemic that plagues every neighborhood in this country. It is an epidemic that plagues our schools. It is an epidemic that plagues our school grounds. It is an epidemic that plagues youth in our playgrounds and it plagues older people in the workplace. It is a plague that in many ways is a new problem—a problem that is only really 15, 20, maybe 30 years old—but it is a problem and a plague that is growing. It is one that specifically hurts children, and, indeed, once it attacks our children, it can destroy in many ways their future quality of life and their future life in terms of longevity. This epidemic, this plague, is childhood obesity.

Just this summer, the Food and Drug Administration announced it will require food labels to list trans fatty acids. Most people do not know what trans fatty acids are; people do not know exactly what they do. But they

do things which make in many ways food taste better. They make foods last longer. They give flavor to foods. They increase shelf life. The problem is that these trans fats contribute to heart disease. Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in the United States of America today.

For 20 years, before coming to the Senate, I spent my life in medicine and ended up gravitating to this field of heart disease. It wasn't as big of a problem in the late 1970s or early 1980s, but it was there. What bothers me most is that it is skyrocketing today, and it is increasing faster among adolescents—children—than it is among anyone else.

It is interesting. If my colleagues are listening to me, the likelihood is one out of every two of you is going to die of heart disease—not just my colleagues but on average around the country. That is how common heart disease is in terms of mortality.

Various food companies really deserve praise for their plans to reduce the level of trans fats in their most popular products. These are important advances in public health, and I applaud our food manufacturers for stepping up and taking this leadership position.

Ultimately, however, the responsibility for this growing, skyrocketing epidemic rests with all of us—individual consumers, American consumers—you and me—and all of us because ultimately we make that decision for ourselves in terms of our shopping, in terms of how we conduct our lifestyle, how much exercise we get, and what we eat.

But the point is that we have an epidemic. It is hurting specifically children. Children are really condemned to a lower quality of life because of this epidemic. But the good news is that there is something we can do about it; we can reverse these trends.

Sixty percent of Americans today are overweight. More than one out of two are overweight. By itself, obesity might be considered just another choice we have in life, that we just choose, that is what we do, and, if it hurts us, that is just the way it goes. It is more than just another choice. It really does come down to what we do, which may not be a choice in part because there may be even a genetic component to it. We don't know for sure. But researchers in England believe they have discovered a gene which they are calling an obesity gene that some way predisposes some to overeat. It is a choice in terms of lifestyle: People choose to take the metro or the subway rather than walk. We know our children in schools today are exercising a lot less. We know that our kids today are spending a lot more time in front of the television or at the computer and are less likely to be exercising.

Whether by choice or by some combination of genes and environment, we know obesity is now a major public health threat in the United States of

America. Obesity contributes directly to heart disease but also to diabetes. Diabetes is reaching epidemic proportions in our children today. It directly contributes to other illnesses, including cancer and stroke.

There are 300,000 deaths a year that can be directly attributed to fat. The epidemic is spreading in faster and faster proportions with our children. The percentage of kids age 6 to 19 who are overweight has quadrupled since the early 1960s. It is not a static problem; it is getting worse.

Pick any city in the country. Look at New York City's public school children, nearly half are overweight; one in four is obese. The problem is particularly acute among African-American and Hispanic children, especially Hispanic boys. More Hispanic boys than Hispanic girls are obese. In my own State of Tennessee, the statistics are even worse.

Nationwide, type 2 diabetes, the kind of diabetes that is associated with obesity, is skyrocketing. At the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, estimates are that one in three Americans born in the year 2000 will develop diabetes in their lifetime. One in three Americans born today will develop diabetes in their lifetime. This is attributed to obesity. It is attributed to being overweight. Among African-American and Hispanic children that number is not just one in three Americans, but it is one in two Americans in those populations that will develop diabetes in their lifetime.

People say diabetes is bad and that should be reversed. But it is even worse than saying it is just diabetes because diabetes itself is the leading cause of kidney failure, which is renal failure. Diabetes is the leading cause of heart disease. Diabetes is a leading cause of blindness as well as amputations. It all starts as a child, who, in this growing epidemic, is led to be obese.

As adults, we know how hard it is to battle the fat or the battle of the bulge. We all struggle with that in our environment of fast food and transportation. It is very easy to find excuses not to exercise four times a week for 30 minutes. But imagine struggling with obesity when you are just 10 years of age, where this is reaching those epidemic proportions. Teachers say they see the physical toll on their students every day. Kids are out of breath walking up the school stairs. Kids are not able to participate fully in sports. Kids are not able to participate when they do field trips and go outside, activities we associate with playing and vigorous childhood activity. Kick-ball, jumping rope, and climbing trees for many children today, unlike in the past, have become grueling exercises that, indeed, they try to avoid. They say they will not participate because they are embarrassed to participate.

Mr. President, 25 percent of our Nation's children say they do not participate in any vigorous activity today. That is one out of four children. Obesity is not only robbing them of those